



Richard Ough



Betsy Ough

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A boatswain in the British Navy, Richard Ough was born May 14, 1790, at Cornwall, England. For many years he was a Hudson's Bay Company seaman and came to the Pacific Northwest with Dr. John McLaughlin in 1832 to help establish the post at Fort Vancouver. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in the U. S. District Court in Clark County on November 25, 1851.

Richard was a large man for those days, 6' 2" tall and weighing 240 pounds. In 1838 he took as his bride Princess White Wing, who was the daughter of the Cascades Chief "Slyhorse" Schluyhus and his wife Running Fawn (also known as Latourette Lind). White Wing's people had always lived at Washougal as long as any red man could remember. Richard met her at Fort Vancouver while her father was undertaking some negotiations with Dr. McLaughlin, and it was love at first sight. Richard decided to call her "Betsy" and she kept the name. He persisted in courting her and eventually her father agreed to the wedding with mutual arrangements on both sides, promising friendship between the whites and the Indians. They were married by Dr. McLaughlin sometime in 1838 and because Richard was a Protestant and Dr. McLaughlin was a Catholic, they repeated their vows on November 6, 1842, before J. S. Griffith, a minister at Forest Grove on Tualatin Plains, Oregon. They lived in a log house at Fort Vancouver after their wedding.

The following is found among the letters of Dr. John McLaughlin:

Richard Ough has complained to me that the grog they get is too weak but I believe this is caused by Capt. Kipling having issued to them liquor on his way from England just as it came out of the puncheon, when it is thirty three above...and you know our rule is allow our liquor to the servants at the rate of one third water...and which I have mentioned to Ough.

Richard returned to sea for several voyages, and Mrs. McLaughlin, who was one half Indian, took Betsy into her household and taught her the household arts and cooking of the "white woman." The Oughs were invited to take part in the social

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functions of the post, probably because of Betsy's station as the daughter of an important Chief. Many of their children were baptised in the tiny wooden Catholic Church outside the Fort in 1846.

When Dr. McLaughlin resigned from the Hudson's Bay Company he told Richard that the beaver and other game were disappearing and advised him to find himself a piece of ground and become a farmer. Richard bought a piece of property at Washougal from an Englishman who wanted to go to California, purchasing it for \$45, a horse and saddle, and a batch of Betsy's newly baked bread. Betsy was a skilled midwife and presided at the births of many children of the early pioneers. Later, when the Donation Land Claim Act was passed by Congress, Richard filed on a claim of 633.91 acres. Part of the land eventually became the townsite of present day Washougal.

In 1910, Betsy was interviewed by D. W. Hutchinson of the *Oregonian* newspaper in Portland, Oregon, and she told of hardships encountered by some of the American settlers:

Sometimes, though we not got much, all hungry people come over the mountains in wagons, on horse, in canoe, maybe walk...all the time come. All poor, got nothing. Maybe sick. Some fight Indian, loose ox. He come, stop here; maybe two or three, sometimes twenty come. Richard, he kill calf, kill steer, feed 'em potato; sometimes all gone. Never take money. Richard say "Betsy, we can't eat money. Money is only for playing cards with." She told a story of a poor man and woman with two baby girls that arrived at their farm. Her husband immediately milked the cow to feed the babies. After staying for a week, the couple left for the Willamette Valley and Richard sent along his cow so that the babies would not starve.

Richard passed away on August 30, 1884, and Betsy moved in with her son John, with whom she lived until her demise on July 16, 1911. She was thought to be anywhere from 98 to 104 years old. She never knew her exact date of birth. The Oughs are both buried in the Washougal Memorial Cemetery.

Children of Richard Ough and "Betsy" White Wing Schluyhus:

Sarah Cynthia Ough: b. 1839, WA, m. John Davis Woodward, 5 Mar. 1857 (b. 1A)

Children of John Woodward and Sarah Cynthia Ough:

Richard Woodward: b. 1858, WA
William Woodward: b. 1861, WA
James Woodward: b. 1863, WA
Alfred S. Woodward: b. 1862, WA
Samuel Woodward: b. 1868, WA

Grace Marie Ough: b. 6 Mar. 1842, WA, m. Joseph Latourelle, 1859 (b. 1828, Canada), d. 6 Mar. 1918, Multnomah Co., OR, bur. Douglas Cemetery, Troutdale, OR

Children of Joseph Latourelle and Grace Marie Ough:

Joseph George Latourelle: b. 1862, OR
Richard Charles Latourelle: b. 1864, OR
Benjamin Mason Latourelle: b. 1865, OR
Alice J. Latourelle: b. 1867, OR, m. _____ Couter
Fanny Latourelle: b. 1869, OR
William A. Latourelle: b. 1871, OR
Clara E. Latourelle: b. 1875, OR, m. _____ Larson
Henry A. Latourelle